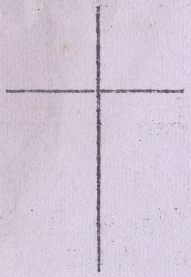
Jan 1975

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH



THE MESSENGER

******

ST. STEPHEN'S, Milnrow

&

LITTLEBOROUGH

Price

4p

GOD BROKE THE YEARS

God broke the years to hours and days,
That hour by hour
And day by day
Just going on a little way,
We might be able to all along
To keep quite strong.

Should all the weights of life be laid,
Across our shoulders and the future,
Rife with woe and struggle,
meet us face to face
At just one place,
We could not go.

Our feet would stop, and so
God lays a little on us every day.
And never, I believe, in all the way
Will burdens bear so deep
Or pathways lie so steep
But we can go if by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour.

****

OO R U?

Nurse to Mrs. Kathleen Hill on entering hospital:
Religion?

Kathleen: United Reformed Church

Nurse: Is that a new religion?

On being advised that is was the uniting of the Congregationalists & Presbyterians she still didn't look any wiser.

.....

Catholic Priest to patient (not Mrs. Hill):
Which denomination do you belong to?

Paitent: URC
Priest: Pardon
Patient: United Reformed Church

Do you think we should advertise?

From the Manse

January 1975

My dear friends,

May I thank you all for the many Christmas cards received and, as 1975 commences, offer you all best wishes for the New Year.

Early in January we shall, as Christians, be remembering the feast of the Epiphany, the time when Christ was shown forth to the wider world, represented in the Bible by the three kings from the East. There is something here which we can surely take to heart and determine to work by in the coming days.

If the Church today has one central task to perform it is to show forth Christ to the world. In order to do this it has to understand the necessity for evangelism and realise that it has to think outside its own internal affairs. So the Church must have a bigger vision. It must also have a greater degree of faith.

Life for many, in these days, is becoming increasingly difficult and the Church also is feeling the pressure of the world economic situation. Some within the Church may find this an extremely depressing outlook but I would urge that we all think a little more about God's power and a little less about our own lack of resources. I have discovered, over many years, that whenever God's work is truly being done that He will provide sufficient means for the maintenance of the witness. As you all know much was achieved in 1974, and we have felt that God was at work in our midst.

May I therefore leave these thoughts with you for 1975. Show forth Christ and trust God for the means to do so. If we do our part faithfully and humbly be sure He will do His.

A very happy and blesses New Year to you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"

(Philippians 4: verse 6)

++

OBITUARY

Mr. ARTHUR WOOD of 9 Westward Ho, Milnrow, died on 20th December, aged 86 years.
Our Minister conducted the funeral service at Rochdale Crematorium.
Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wood and relatives.

++

MUMS THE WORD!

Young Mums re-open on Wednesday, January 8th when we shall be thinking about NEW things. Our afternoon will be opened by Mrs. M. Nash.

Jan. 15th: Opened by Mrs. C. Hey
A Beetle Drive

22nd: Opened by Mrs. A. Baines
Hairdessing Demonstration

29th: Opened by Mrs. M. Holden
Discussion - Current affairs.

An invitation is given to all Young Mums to join us on Wednesday afternnon from 2.0 pm.

Many thanks to all who brought along decorations eats, etc., to make our Party afternnon such a happy one. Most of all we enjoyed the little Service held in our Church - with candles, carols, the manger; to say nothing of the little Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men.

****

ON COURSE

PILOTS - meets every Monday from 6.30 pm.
This is preceded by "Pre-Pilots" for children of 6 years old.
Early in the New Year we shall have a Promotion Service in the Church when our new members will be accepted as full "Ordinary Seamen" after having been "Deck Hands" for a number of weeks.
God bless you all.

JOIN THE GUILD AND SEE THE WORLD

The LADIES GUILD have enjoyed many happy times during 1974, and we look forward to the New Year with gratitude for these times of Fellowship and upliftment, and in great anticipation of more to come.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, January 7th. This will be followed by a programme entitled, "Around the World." We look forward to seeing all members on that evening - and why not everyone try to bring another. We have room for many more.

"SONGS OF PRAISE"
(at St. Stephen's)

SUNDAY, January 19th

at 6.0 pm.

Begin the year as you mean to go on

---in Song!

ALL WITH ONE ACCORD(ION)

There was such a great turn out of bodies and voices at the Carol Singing on Wednesday 18th December, that the party could be divided into two and it was possible to visit both old folks homes at Oaklands and Brooklands. Mrs. Bradburty brought along her piano-accordian and although it proved a bit tricky illuminating music with torches, there was a consensus of opinion that the singing benefitted surprisingly from an accompaniment to keep us on the right note.

Some of the singers, however, were slightly put out by the predilection of Rev. & Mrs. Nash for that atrocious carol "Twelve Days of Christmas" but since they provided the refreshments at the conclusion of the proceedings, no one could complain. Nevertheless, it was shaking the fivepenny piece a bit to insist on an encore. 12 verses of "Twelve Days" is a gross trick to play on anyone. (Get it? "Gross"? 12 x 12?)

****

FOR FOREIGN POSTS

We have been asked to mention discreetly that the local Christmas Card arrangements which we ran again this year realised no less than £8.88½. The World Mission Committee wish to express their gratitude to all those who assisted with this worthwhile scheme. The increased number of helpers this year, certainly made the job easier.

A BUSY CHRISTMAS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Other Christmas activities this year followed a well established pattern but, nevertheless, there was a spirit of joy in the air and several events were carried out in spendid style.

Things began quietly enough on the first day of the month when Mr. & Mrs. H. Whitehead received gifts for the needy children at the Toy Service, and reached a climax with the Christmas Morning Service.

Early in December ther was the usual dance under the capable direction of Mr. & Mrs. K. Hey, and to the music of the Bill Duncan Trio.

The following Sunday the Beginners all trooped in together and sang us 2 little carols.

The most ambitious part of the festival was the evening service on the 22nd, when a nativity play was presented. This was written by Nash, Rev. A, and produced by Nash, Mrs. M. and proved to be a most creditable performance. The story was based on a conversation among a group of exhausted and (in some cases) cynical postmen in a sorting office, and their discussion was blended with a mimed enactment of the crib scene. It was interesting to see that several age groups were able to work together on this and it was good to note several displays of talent from people who had not previously participated in performances of this kind at St. Stephen's.

The choir too had a busy Christmas quite apart from the wassailing mentioned on the previous page of this magazine. They filled a role within the nativity play by contributing "The Friendly Beasts", "Shepherd Shake off Your Drowsy Sleep" and "We Three Kings" - Thank you, gentlemen, for your regal solos! - At the same service they also sang "The Rocking Carol", The Carol of the Bagpiper", The Coventy Carol", and Mrs. Baines, the choirmistress, provided a solo of "The Echo Carol". As a final display of diligence, the choir were again very much to the fore during the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, with "Mary's Boy Child" "Mary Had a Baby" and "Deck the Hall".

Which all goes to show what can be done at St. Stephen's when we try.

THE 'INDISPENSABLE MAN'

Some time when you're feeling important,
Some time when your ego's in bloom,
Some time when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified man in the room;
Some time when you feel that your going,
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hands in it up to your wrists;
Pull them out - and the hole that remains
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.
You may splash all you please when you enter;
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple:
Do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
Thereis no Indispensable Man.

Father was finishing breakfast, and kissed his small daughter on the cheek as she set off for school. The girl quickly pulled out a handkerchief and wiped her face.
"What? wiping away Daddy's Kiss?"said the father astonished at this apparent show of bad manners.
"No, rubbing it in," laughed daughter as she skipped out of the door.

(Taken from The Friendship Book of Francis Ga

A RECKONING

We have received the following figures relating to the Autumn Fair at Littleborough:-

Juniors ...	8.60
Young People...	84.45
Busy Bees ...	17.65
Refreshments...	26.94
Tea Room ...	56.07
Drapery ...	61.11
Men ...	37.61
Door Money ...	5.60
Womens Guild Donation	70.00
Other Donations	23.00
	£391.03

Less:

Tea for guests	90	
"Observer"	1.98	
Poster	2.10	4.98
Total		£386.05 nett

The Coupon Sellers also put in a superb performance as this list indicates:-

Mrs. Binns	20.00
Mrs. Crossley	154.00
Mrs. M.G. Hill	50
Mrs. Mellor	110.00
Mr. F. Simpson	50.00
Mrs. V. Simpson	42.00
	£426.00

Have you noticed how easy it is to make money these days? Not as easy as spending it mind you, but you cannot have everything.

At any rate, congratulations and thanks to all those who helped in any way towards the financial and social success of our Autumn Fair.

THER IS NOTHING LIKE A GUY

The first Ladies Guild evening of 1975 will be on January 21st when, as a special treat, (for whom?) the men-folk are invited to join us. So, gentlemen and others, make a note of the date in your diaries; January 21st at 7.30 pm., at the "Ladies Guild".

EVERY TIME SHE OPENS HER MOUTH SHE PUTS HER FOOT IN IT!

A young man was sitting behind two modern misses on a bus and he couln't help overhearing their conversation. "I've just bought a new pair of boots," said one, "and I can't get into them." The other smiled sympathetically. "I know," she said. "It's impossible to get them on until you've worn them a few times."

GREETINGS

We are informed that the stock of Birthday Cards has now been replenished. They can be obtained

- At reasonable prices
- From Mrs. K. Hill
  or
  Mrs. P. Lightfoot
- At most church activities

Take advantage of this excellent facility!

****

Power greater than you ever dreamed of is waiting to support you.

LAST YEARS TOYS

The Toy Service was held on Sunday 8th December when our minister was the preacher and the toys were received by Mr. & Mrs. G. Kelsall. Our thanks go to them and to all the boys and girls who donated their books, games, dolls and what-have-yous.

Mr. Vincent sends a big thank you on behalf of all the children who received these gifts on Christmas morning.

THANKFUL BE

You can't call back your yesterdays
or halt times hurried pace.
You cannot live one minute twice
or one short step retrace.
So make the most of every moment.
Truly thankful be-for every day
And try to live it well and happily.

Patience Strong

LOSING PATIENCE

You have admirers, Miss Patience Strong,
Your verses fill their hearts with song,
But others with natures less pathetic
Regard your poems as a good emetic.

You seek to uplift the human race,
But in the "Messenger" you just fill a space,
And considering your lines don't even scan
It's best to get more news when we can.

****

Life without adventure is dull; look ahead!

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 5th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
12th	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
19th	Mr. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
26th	Mrs. I. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
Feb. 2nd	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. F. Rae

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS		DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Jan.			
5th	Mr. J.Wild	Mrs.E.Gillon	Mr. D. Logan
12th	Mr. B.Clough	Miss M. Wood	Mrs. C. Hey
19th	Mr. R.Gillon	Mrs.E.Gillon	Mrs.E.Starkie
26th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mrs.N.Settle	Mr. J. Emmott
Feb.2	Miss M.Wood	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Jan. 5th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mrs. M. Howarth
19th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. K. Hey (am.)
Feb. 2nd	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. B. Clough

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 5th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
12th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins
19th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
26th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
Feb. 2nd	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Nov. 3rd	7.80	2.98	20.45	31.23
10th	7.04	1.39	13.28	21.71
17th	8.52	7.46	20.06	36.04
24th	5.24	.70	15.26	21.20
	£28.60	£12.53	£69.05	£110.18

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 5th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. H.N. Hill
12th	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mr. J. Hill
19th	Mr. J. Holt	Mrs. Stott
26th	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. J. Nairn
Feb. 2nd	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. F. Ingham

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Jan.12th	Mr. J. Lord	Mr. F. Beattie	6.0 pm.
26th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. Simpson	10.30 am.

COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 5th	K. Hill	W. Spinks
12th	D. Mallinson	B. Holt
19th	J. Law	J. Allison
26th	S. Moss	L. Kelsall
Feb. 2nd	L. Butterworth	J. Hobbs

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Jan. 5th "The wonders of God's creation"
Psalm 19: 1-6 M. Grindrod

12th "Humility before God"
Luke 18: 9-14 M. Law

19th "Called to Share"
1 Corinthians 1: 25-31 H. Vincent

26th "God's heirs"
Romans 8: 12-17 K. Hill

Feb. 2nd P. Lightfoot

MILNROW DIARY

January		
Thur. 2nd	1.30 pm.	Junior Church visit to Pantomime.
Sun. 5th	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash
	6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon. 6th	5.45 pm.	Pre-Pilots) Each Monday
	6.30 pm.	Pilots) as announced.
Tues. 7th	5.45 pm.	Recorder Rehearsal) Each Tuesday
	6.15 pm.	Envoys' Rehearsal)as announced
Wed. 8th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group (& each Wednesday)
Sun. 12th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
	6.00 pm.	Mrs. E. Gillon
Wed. 15th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
	7.30 pm.	District Womens Rally & A.G.M. at Trinity U.R.C.
Sun. 19th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash (Family Communion)
	6.00 pm.	" (Songs of Praise)
Wed. 22nd	7.30 pm.	Annual Church Meeting and FILM
Thur.23rd	7.30 pm.	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Unites Service at Moorhouse Methodist
Sat. 25th	7.30 pm.	Rochdale Youth Band
Sun. 26th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Nash
	6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash
February		
Sun. 2nd	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament

****

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Jan. 5th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. E. Gillon Mrs. D. Howarth
12th	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Cudworth
19th	Mrs. G. Buckley	
26th	Mrs. G. Whittaker	Miss M. Wood Mrs. Doris Butterworth
Feb. 2nd	Mrs. F. Holland	Mrs. E. Prince

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

January

Fri. 3rd		Junior Church Party
Sun. 5th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Thur. 9th	7.30 pm.	Mens "Christmas" Supper
Sun. 12th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00 pm.	" (Communion)
Sun. 19th	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Tues. 21st	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild
Fri. 24th	7.30 pm.	Film "The Ministry"
Sun. 26th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash
Mon. 27th	7.30 pm.	Annual Church Meeting All members are requested to make an effort to attend!
Thur. 30th	7.30 pm.	Mens Fellowship - Counc. W.S. Edwards: "Trip to Russia"

February

Sun. 2nd	10.30 am.	To be announced

++++++++++++++

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Jan. 5th	Mrs. Hill
12th	Mrs. Mellor
19th	Mrs. Arthur
26th	Mrs. Ingham
Feb. 2nd	Mrs. White

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
Oct. 13th	3.95	15.65
20th	2.04½	10.47½
27th	3.06½	11.68½
Nov. 3rd	2.38½	11.67½
10th	4.07½	11.30½
17th	1.21	10.65
24th	1.61	7.35
Dec. 1st	1.39	9.85

****

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

*

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW	LITTLEBOROUGH
Mr. Allan Roberts,	Mr. F.G. Simpson,
54 Beechfield Road,	121 Calderbrook Road,
Milnrow.	Littleborough.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243	Tel: 061 834 4402 (Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc (Econ),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

*